A-2318

THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

WILL. WILLIAMS, Esq;

SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS,

To the HONOURABLE

HOUSE of COMMONS,

UPON

The Electing of him SPEAKER in the PARLIAMENT At *Oxford, Monday* the 21. of day of *March*, 1680.

TOGETHER,

With his Speeches to His Moſt *Excellent Majeſty*, at the Preſenting of him Speaker to His *Majeſty* by the Commons in PARLIAMENT, upon *Tueſday* 22. day of the ſame Month.

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EDINBURGH,

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THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

WILL. WILLIAMS, Esq;

To the House of

COMMONS,

Upon the electing of him Speaker, at *Oxford*, *Monday*, 21. *Mar.* 1680.

Gentlemen,

IT were vanity in me by Arguments from Weakness and Unfitness to disable my self for your Service in this Chair at this Time.

The unanimous Voice of the House calling me to this Place encludes me, and leaves me without excuse: Whom the Commons have elected for this Trust is to be supposed worthy and fit for it; wherefore I must acquiesce in your Commands.

Apprehending this Choice proceeds from the Example you have from your Countries by your own Elections, making this Parliament, as much as in you and them lies, the same with the last; therefore you have the same Speaker.

I ought not to offer any sort of Assurance to this House of my resolved Constancy, Fidelity and Vigilancy in the discharge of this Duty; The just sense I have of the Honour generally given me this day is your stipulation for my good Abearance; the Trust I owe and am to answer to God, my Religion, to *England* and *English-men* in this Service, must

tie me to do and ſuffer all that Fleſh and Bloud can add or endure in your Choice.

This is not the time to ſpeak much, but to act well: Without more words then, in order to our proper Parliamentary Method of Proceedings, Gentlemen, admit me to make it my firſt Motion, That your Debates and Proceedings may be regular and orderly, without Reflection, without Paſſion; and that my Actings and Behaviour may have your kind and candid Conſtruction; and you ſhall find there is not any thing ſo dear to me which ſhall not be advanced in the Service of the Commons in Parliament by me.

THE

SPEECH

Of the Honourable

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Eſq;

To His Moſt Excellent

MAJESTY,

At the Preſenting of him Speaker by the Commons to His MAJESTY, at *Oxford*, upon *Tueſday*, 22. *Mar.* 1680.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes in Parliament aſſembled, with Duty and Loyalty agreeable to themſelves and the Perſons whom they repreſent, have in Obedience to Your Royal Pleaſure, for the diſpoſing of themſelves

ſelves in that great Aſſembly for Your Majeſties Service, conſidered of a Speaker; and, to manifeſt to Your Majeſty and the World they are not inclinable to Changes, have with one Voice elected me their Speaker, having had the Honour to ſerve Your Majeſty and the Commons in that Truſt in the laſt Parliament.

With all Humility I preſume again by their Commands to ſtand before Your Majeſty to receive Your Pleaſure with a Head and Heart full of Loyalty to Your Sacred Perſon; armed with a ſettled Reſolution never to depart from Your well ancient and eſtabliſhed Government.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR

By His

MAJESTIES COMMAND,

Said to this purpoſe.

Mr. Speaker,

FOR ſo I am commanded to call you, His Majeſty hath well conſidered the Choice the Commons have made, and does very much approve of that Election, and doth accept and allow you for Speaker.

The

The further SPEECH OF *WILLIAM WILLIAMS*, Esq; Then Presented to His Most Excellent *MAJESTY*.

Most Gracious Soveraign,

NAtural Allegiance commands Loyalty to Your Majesty from every Subject.

Your singular Grace and Favour to me in the last Parliament, continued by the honour I have in this, add more than Dutyfulness and Obedience to my Loyalty.

I am set in the first Station of your Commons for Trust and Quality; an high and slippery place: It requires a steady Head and a well poiz'd Body in him that will stand firm there: Uprightness is the safe Posture and best Policy, and shall be mine in this place: gaurded with this Opinion, that Your Majesties service in this Trust, is one and the same with the service of your Commons, and that they are no more to be divided than Your Crown and Scepter.

They truly serve the Crown and Countrey, (which shall be my Care and Industry) who make the safety of Your Sacred Person, the Defence and Security of the Protestant Religion, the Support of Your Majesties Government, the Maintenance of the Laws, and Preservation of the ancient Constitutions of Parliament; one and the same undivided Interest, one and the same Safety, one and the same inseparable Security, for your self and People.

These

Theſe are the Deſires of all good men, but muſt be the effects of good Counſels, for the enabling of Your Majeſties great Council now in Parliament aſſembled, to compleat this bleſſed Eſtabliſhment with all humility. I addreſs to your Majeſty in the name, and on the behalf of the Commons in Parliament.

I. That We and our Servants may be free in our Perſons and Eſtates, from Arreſts and other Diſturbances.

II. That in our Debates, Liberty and Freedom of Speech be allowed us.

III. That as Occaſion ſhall require, Your Majeſty will vouchſafe us acceſs to your Royal Perſon.

I take leave to joyn this humble Petition for my ſelf, That nothing by me in Weakneſs, or through Inadvertency, ſaid or done, may turn to the Prejudice of the Commons, and that my Behaviour and Proceedings may receive a benign and favourable Interpretation with your Gracious Majeſty.

The Lord Chancellor, by Command from His Majesty, said to this Effect.

Mr. Speaker,

ALL your Petitions are fully and freely granted by His Majesty, in as large and in ample a manner as ever any House of Commons yet enjoyed them. The King is very sure the Wisdom of this House of Commons, will make as prudent an use of them, as any of your Ancestors ever did. Your own particular Petition is grateful to the King too, because he knows you will be careful to avoid mistakes as His Majesty is ready to forgive them.

And now Mr. Speaker, these Preliminaries being clear'd over, the King desires you would hasten to the rest that are necessary to be dispatch'd, before we can enter upon Business, that so we may husband time, which is now more necessary than ever, and he hopes that this Parliament will come to a very happy and prosperous Conclusion, and that it may do so, God Almighty direct and Prosper all your Consultations.

FINIS.